

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJECT: ROMULO'S VIEWS ON NEXT SEATO COUNCIL MEETING

REF: MANILA 9915

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. APPRECIATE YOUR REPORT OF SECRETARY ROMULO'S VIEWS ON SEATO WHICH ARE USEFUL TO US IN PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING SEATO COUNCIL MEETING IN NEW YORK. WE DO NOT CONCUR, HOWEVER, IN ROMULO'S OPINION THAT SEATO POLICY IS GENERALLY ADRIFT AND THAT THE NEW YORK MEETING COULD BE A SHAMBLES. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT SEATO HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY REORGANIZED TO REFLECT CHANGING CONDITIONS IN ASIA. THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN USED TO IMPLEMENT LAST YEAR'S DECISIONS TO RE-ORGANIZE AND STREAMLINE THE ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES
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AND PERSONNEL. SEATO'S ACTIVITIES ARE ALREADY BEING CON-

CENTRATED ON SECURITY/DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES, AND THE SEATO FY75 BUDGET INCLUDES AN ALL TIME HIGH IN THE AMOUNT DEVOTED TO EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN THESE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS PRESSED FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR GREATER SEATO INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE; LATER UNDER GENERAL VARGAS COUNTER-INSURGENCY BECAME A FOCAL POINT. BUT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SEATO IS

AN APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION FOR LARGE SCALE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE NOR ARE WE IN A POSITION TO OBTAIN A LARGE CONTRIBUTION TO SEATO FROM CONGRESS. IN COUNTER-INSURGENCY OUR POSITION IS THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE CAN BEST BE HANDLED ON A PRIMARILY BILATERAL BASIS.

3. A FULL OUTLINE OF THE SEATO MEETING IS STILL BEING FORMULATED IN BANGKOK BY THE SEATO SECRETARIAT, THE WORKING GROUP AND THE COUNCIL REPS. AS OF NOW THE COUNCIL MEETING IS EXPECTED TO COMPRISE THE CUSTOMARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON AREA EVENTS PLUS A REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING LAST YEAR'S DECISIONS TO REVAMP THE ORGANIZATION. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE'S SPEECH IS EXPECTED TO COVER THE EAST ASIAN SITUATION WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO INDOCHINA ALONG LINES THAT ARE ALREADY FAMILIAR TO THE GOP AND THE RELEVANCE OF THIS SITUATION TO SEATO. IT WILL ALSO REAFFIRM OUR BELIEF THAT THE MANILA PACT REMAINS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE FOUNDATION FOR PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

4. FOR USUN: SHOULD ROMULO RAISE QUESTION OF SEATO MEETING, MISSION SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT ON BASIS PARA 1 AND 2 ABOVE. IF NEED FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE ARISES, WE WOULD TAKE THIS UP ON AD HOC BASIS.

5. FOR BANGKOK: ASIDE FROM REGULAR REPORTING BY BANGKOK AS DRAFT SEATO AGENDA AND RESOLUTIONS ARE DEVELOPED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY OTHER REPORTING THAT BANGKOK MIGHT FEEL WOULD BE ESPECIALLY PERTINENT TO ROMULO'S
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REQUEST. KISSINGER

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